

News from the Wyoming Department of Health

Monday, May 18, 2009

Wyoming Volunteers Provide Most EMS Services in State

The Wyoming Department of Health is saluting the sometimes overlooked value and accomplishments of Wyoming's largely volunteer emergency medical services (EMS) providers.

Emergency Medical Services week is being celebrated May 17-23 with the nationwide theme of "A Proud Partner in Your Community."

Dr. Brent Sherard, Wyoming Department of Health director and state health officer noted that nearly 80 percent of EMS providers in Wyoming are volunteers. "We have a great volunteer network out there that is ready to take care of us and our families in the event of a car accident, severe illness or other emergency medical situation," he said.

"EMS team members provide a vital public health service and should not be taken for granted," Sherard said.

In 2008, Wyoming EMS interventions helped save an estimated 2,819 lives and helped avert 3,212 permanent disabilities.

"Wyoming's EMS providers are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need at any time and on any day," Sherard said. "Access to quality emergency care has a dramatic effect on survival and recovery rates of patients with sudden illness or injury."

The Office of Emergency Services in the Wyoming Department of Health provides training, and ensures quality pre-hospital emergency care by certifying personnel, licensing ambulance services, inspecting vehicles, providing technical assistance and administrative support and taking legal action.

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